

Application No. 10/764,174
AMENDMENT dated April 18, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 7, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and an outlet for discharge of a beverage produced from the one or more beverage ingredients, characterised in that the cartridge comprises an outer member and an inner member conjoined on assembly with the outer member, the inner member defining the outlet of the cartridge, wherein a snap-fit arrangement is provided to conjoin the outer member and the inner member on assembly of the cartridge.
2. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the snap-fit arrangement comprises co-operating formations on the inner member and the outer member.
3. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 2 wherein the outer member comprises a closed first end and an open second end, wherein with the inner member snap-fitted to the outer member the outlet of the inner member is directed towards the open second end of the outer member.

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4. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 3 wherein the inlet is directed towards the open second end of the outer member.

5. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 4 wherein the outer member and inner member are snap-fitted together at or near the closed first end of the outer member.

6. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 5 wherein the snap-fit between the inner member and the outer member forms a water-tight seal.

7. (Currently Amended) A cartridge as claimed in claims 6 A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising an inlet for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the cartridge and an outlet for discharge of a beverage produced from the one or more beverage ingredients, characterised in that the cartridge comprises an outer member and an inner member conjoined on assembly with the outer member, the inner member defining the outlet of the cartridge, wherein a snap-fit arrangement is provided to conjoin the outer member and the inner member on assembly of the cartridge wherein the inner member further comprises a skirt surrounding the outlet, the skirt comprising an upper extension having an upper rim which engages, on assembly of the cartridge, a co-operating formation of the outer member to form the snap-fit arrangement for conjoining the inner member to the outer member.

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8. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 7 wherein the co-operating formation of the outer member is an inwardly directed extension.

9. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 8 wherein the inner member comprises a discharge spout defining the outlet.

10. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 9 wherein the outer member comprises an inwardly directed extension which is received in a proximal end of the discharge spout on conjoining of the outer member and the inner member.

11. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 10 wherein the discharge spout is integral with the inner member.

12. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the discharge spout comprises a tapered portion.

13. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 12 wherein the discharge spout comprises a cylindrical portion.

14. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 13 wherein the discharge spout comprises a partition extending at least part way along the length of the discharge spout.

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15. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 14 wherein the cartridge is disc-shaped.

16. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 15 further comprising means for producing a jet of the beverage, which means comprises an aperture in a beverage flow path between the inlet and the outlet.

17. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 16 wherein the outer member and/or inner member are formed from polypropylene.

18. (Original) A cartridge as claimed in claim 17 wherein the outer member and/or inner member is formed by injection moulding.

19. (New) A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the snap-fit arrangement is approximate a central axis of the cartridge.

20. (New) A cartridge as claimed in claim 19 further comprising a mixing chamber containing the one or more beverage ingredients and wherein an outer wall of the inner member partially defines the mixing chamber.